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SUMMARY

Pospelov's speech on Lenin's death anniversary and the official account of the 1951 Plan fulfillment are given the usual wide publicity on the central and regional transmitters. The chronic weaknesses of agriculture--lagging livestock industry and inefficient utilization and maintenance of machinery--still dominate the output in that field. In industry, the pressure is on socialist competition and higher production quality as the only way to rectify the existing deficiencies. Inadequate political education of Communists and low attendance of Party schools still claim considerable official attention. Literature and art in the Buryat-Mongolian and Yakut Autonomous Republics are scrutinized from an ideological point of view and found wanting.

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Agriculture: The continuing official concern about the lack of progress shown by the livestock industry is reflected in a number of regional broadcasts with charges ranging from faulty distribution of fodder to open violations of the agricultural statute. Losses of cattle, often euphemistically referred to as failure to achieve numerical increases, are reported from a number of areas.

GRODNENSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 16) speaks of the inadequate fodder rationing which "dooms the cattle to undernourishment" during the second part of the winter, and is responsible for the "decreasing numbers" and lower productivity of the livestock. The above reference is made to the Grodno oblast as a whole but a glaring example of the malpractice is cited in the case of the "Ilyich" collective farm where "not one" of the cattle breeders knows how much and what kind of fodder should be given to "this or that group of animals."

SOVETSKAYA SIBIR (Jan. 18) discusses the "antikolkhoz practices" and "serious violations" of the agricultural state in Ordynsky, Toguchinsky, Iskitimsky and Maslyaninsky rayons and concludes that "such an attitude can only be expected from the enemies of the kolkhoz system." Individual workers as well as organizations and establishments, it appears, are "deliberately harming" the collective farms. In Ordynsky rayon, for example, a number of officials from the Chairman of the Executive Committee down are said to be "among those violating the statute", and the head of the rayon machine-tractor station is known to be accepting bribes. The chaotic situation brought about by such officials, says the paper, is not surprising:

Available evidence shows squandering of property, livestock, produce, work days and the improper distribution of profits. In a number of places... auditing is not being carried out and there is a large indebtedness.

Russian version:

Vdes yest fakty razbazarivania ugodya, skota, produktov i nevernogo raspredelenia dokhodov. V ryade mest...ne provodyatsia revizii, velika zadolzhennost.

That most of the Ukrainian oblasts have failed to increase their livestock productivity is admitted by RADYANSKA UKRAINA on Jan. 25. In Kamenets-Podolsk, Zhitomir, Chernigov, Ternopol and other oblasts the average milk yield per cow is in fact "lower than in 1950." (There is no indication, however, as to the size of the average milk yield per cow in 1950). In at least four oblasts Kamenets-Podolsk, Vinnitsa, Poltava and Rovno the plan to increase the number of hogs was "considerably underfulfilled." (Chernigov oblast, it is revealed, has consistently failed to fulfill its livestock-raising plans in the past three years. Another undersirable feature which most of the Ukrainian oblasts and rayons have in common, according to the paper, are the uniformly bad wintering conditions for the stock. This is simply attributed to the "many shortcomings and mistakes" on the part of the livestock industry but the inferior condition of the stock itself is implicitly associated with the "losses and theft of fodder" over which no control is said to be exercised by the appropriate authorities. The lack of interest in the development of the livestock industry is sharply criticized by RADYANSKA ZHITOMIRSHCHINA (Jan. 25). The editorial asserts that the rayon soviets and agricultural departments "completely failed to attend" to that important branch of agriculture in many parts of the oblast particularly in Lyubarskiy, Gorodnitskiy, Barashivskiy, Bazarovskiy, Zhitomirskiy and Korostenskiy rayons.

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Most unsatisfactory (kraine neudovletvoritelno) is ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA's version of the winter maintenance of the stock in the oblast (Jan. 27). Despite the fact that the fodder shortage is already making itself felt in a number of rayons, the paper says, "not even the simplest measures" have as yet been taken to remedy the situation. Just how the lack of fodder affects the development of cattle-raising is evident from the following editorial remark: "it is understandable that such an indifferent attitude to communal stockbreeding does not increase but does lower the size of the kolkhoz herds." Named as the critical areas are Uritskiy, Khabenetskiy, Volodarskiy and Sudbishchenskiy rayons where no accounts are kept of the fodder supplies and no plans are drawn up for monthly fodder rations and consumption. The failure to keep accounts, it appears, is not peculiar to the Orel oblast farms alone. A ZARYA editorial (Dnepropetrovsk, 29 January) complains that account records are not kept at the stock farms. This vicious practice, the paper hints, may be designed to cover up "the bad organization of feeding, care and maintenance of livestock and accounting for livestock population..." The 1951 livestock development plan is an admitted failure in Nikopolskiy, Krynichanskiy, Stalinskiy and Shirokovskiy rayons. It is also said to be a near failure in Verkhne-Dneprovskiy, Sofiyskiy, Shchorskiy and a number of other unnamed rayons whose previous "great mistakes" have led to "a great lag" in the development of the livestock industry.

The sensitivity of the livestock issue and the gingerly approach to it on the part of many stock men is implicitly admitted by VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 29). The paper inveighs against the "pernicious practice" of evading the serious responsibilities involved in cattle breeding, and declares that such evasions are frequently camouflaged by quasi-legality. Thus the management of a number of machine-tractor stations have deliberately excluded from their collective agreements "the main clauses" regarding the productivity of communal stock breeding.

A Karamyshev dispatch from Altai krai carried by PRAVDA on Jan. 16 (not broadcast) says that the tractor situation in that area is extremely unsatisfactory and that the krai authorities are apparently unaware of it. The overall efficiency of many machine-tractor stations, says Karamyshev, is far below standard and a great number of machines are prematurely put out of commission (prezhdevremennno vykhodiat iz stroya) due to the inadequate qualifications of the operators. In Chumysh oblast, for example, the powerful caterpillar tractors are used only one shift per day while the standard wheel tractors are not employed at all. What the krai needs, according to the author, is better trained mechanization workers and more of them, but the training system is not conducive to such progress. Curiously enough, the dispatch continues, the Altai agricultural officials appear to be quite satisfied with their cadre-training and even quote the latest USSR Agriculture Ministry report as saying that "our krai is far from the bottom of the list" (nash krai stoit daleko ne na poslednem meste). The carelessness (bezzabotnost) manifested in the selection of students for technical training is matched by the reluctance of the individual machine-tractor stations to send any of their workers to school. They in fact do everything possible to keep the tractor drivers out of school (oni vsiacheski uklonyayutsia ot posylki traktoristov na kursy). Neither the Krai Party Committee nor the Executive Committee, according to Karamyshev, seem to be worried about the technical end of agriculture, and yet "there is not the slightest justification for such complacency" (dlia takogo blagodushia net ni maleishogo osnovania).

An IZVESTIA editorial of Jan. 23 sheds additional light on the current drive for greater utilization of farm machinery. An upward revision of production norms, though not specifically mentioned by the paper, may be inferred from the editorial's oblique references to the resistance to it on the part of certain agricultural leaders. The latter, the paper claims, are using all sorts of arguments with the object of "disproving the value of this important innovation (2 or 3 shift tractor work)." No reason is given for the resistance to the mentioned "innovation", but in view of the shortage of trained tractor drivers discussed earlier in this report, the proposed intensification of machinery utilization clearly implies an additional load on the existing personnel. Hence the reluctance to submit to it:

But the leaders of various Soviet and administrative organs, instead of supporting any valuable initiative, prevent it from developing fearing any difficulties or risks, and indeed stifle it,

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preferring to keep to the known and well-trodden paths...Everyone yearning for a quiet and trouble-free life and used to old ways must be subjected to the severest criticism.

An anonymous article broadcast from Kirovograd (Jan. 18) says that the repair of machine-tractor station equipment in the oblast is "lagging far behind" the plan. The inauspicious start made by the repair crews has kept the work 34% to 62% short of the targets, and the repair work already completed is of dubious quality. Discussing the same subject on Jan. 23, KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA is critical of the acute shortage of well trained tractor and combine operators which has led to a repetition of last year's mistakes: most tractors are working only one shift per day. The low attendance of the "mechanization" schools is held responsible for the mentioned shortage but no reason is given for the difficulties attendant upon recruiting the required number of students. Thus the Shchaslivsky machine-tractor station, for example, is short 40 qualified drivers but only 13 are in training, and of the 61 operators needed by the Komintern station only 19 are attending school. The only hint that lack of inducement may in some measure account for the reluctance to take up mechanization courses is seen in a report from Novosibirsk (Jan. 23) saying that "there are many experienced tractor drivers working as storekeepers."

Lepshyeva in KURSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 25) implicitly refers to the shortage of men in agriculture and wants to know why the recruitment of young women for tractor-driving courses "has nearly stopped:"

What is the matter? during the Fatherland War and the first postwar years machine-tractor station cadres consisted mostly of women. Women tractor drivers, combine operators and other workshop workers were fulfilling with honor their duties under conditions more difficult than the present ones.

Russian version:

V chem delo? v gody velikoy otechestvennoy
voyny i pervie poslevoyennye gody kadry MTS
v znachitelnoy chasti sostoyali iz zhenshchin.
Traktoristki, kombianerki, uchetchitsy, rabotnitsy
masterskikh v bolee trudnykh usloviakh chem teper s
chestyu vypolniali postavlennye pered nim zadachi.

Lepshyeva concludes with the suggestion that the post war trend to replace women operator with men be reversed and an end be put to existing abnormal situation (nenormalnoye polozhenie).

In Rostov oblast, the tractor-combine situation has deteriorated to such an extent that immediate and radical measures must be taken to cope with the shortage of trained operators, according to a MOLOT editorial of Jan. 27. The Tagannog mechanization school, for example, was barely able to recruit 66 persons for tractor driver courses instead of the required 200. Some of the oblast's machine-tractor stations, like the Zhitnikovskiy and others, are said to be "drifting along aimlessly" and simply unable to find a solution for their personnel problems. Only 13 of the scheduled 45 students were found to attend school. The mechanization school at the "Sennadtsat' Parts'ezd" kolkhoz was to turn out 10 specialists but only one student was found attending it.

The personnel in the higher echelons of agricultural administration is dealt with in a number of broadcasts, most of them stressing their practical rather than political qualifications. Thus a RABOCHIY PUT editorial (Jan. 18) asserts that the selection, training and appointments of farm managers is not receiving sufficient attention on the part of agricultural authorities. A farm manager, the paper emphasizes

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must be thoroughly familiar with every aspect of collective farm activities, and a good political background alone is obviously not enough: "only well-trained and efficient workers should be selected and put at the head of every farm." The same applies to collective farm chairmen, according to VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 19), especially now that most of the farms have been consolidated. The paper admits that only a few of the former chairman of small farms are equal to their new posts as heads of the enlarged farms. In most cases, however, their ignorance of agriculture and lack of education in general tend to hinder agricultural progress: "A collective farm chairman must have a secondary or high agricultural education." The adverse effect of these "wrong" appointments, it is claimed, is reflected in the mismanagement of a number of large artels where the farm statute is disregarded and "idlers and pilferers of communal property" are covered up. We have no bad collective farms, the paper concludes, only bad administrators, and a further improvement in the work of collective farm chairmen is a sine qua non for the improvement of agriculture.

The illegal distribution of nondistributed funds is again the object of some editorial attention. IZVESTIA (Jan. 16) reminds its readers that tampering with these funds will not be tolerated even though every other aspect of the agricultural plan has been fulfilled and overfulfilled. A number of farms, the paper complains, having completed their planned deliveries to the State, "distributed almost all the remaining products" as remuneration for working days and left very little for sale. Since the nondistributed funds (nedelimie fondy) are made up of the proceeds from such sales, the process should be reversed--the required amount must be added to the fund and the balance used as payment for work. Communal requirements, the paper reiterates, must be given priority over individual needs. The individual-versus-community-interests theme is discussed by VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 20) along similar lines. Referring to the priority system of collective farm obligations, the paper says that the importance of maintaining and increasing the nondistributed fund is second only to the agricultural plan itself, that is deliveries to the State. Last year's mistakes, the editorial stresses, must not be repeated. Payments for work to the farmers must not be made before the necessary deductions for the nondistributed fund have been made. Neither should payments to farmers be made on the basis of equality "without taking into consideration the amount of harvest gathered by a brigade or a team (zveno) and the productivity of cattle achieved."

Among the other agricultural topics aired on the regional transmitters are sugar beet harvesting, acquisition of irrigated land and soil fertilization. Another implicit reference to the manpower shortage in agriculture is, incidentally, contained in a STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA editorial (Jan. 23). Declaring that fertilization work is being carried out very slowly in a number of rayons, the paper suggests that "pioneers and school children can do much to help in this direction" and that the significance of these agrotechnical measures should be explained to the youth.

Sugar beets -- The backward sugar beet rayons of Poltava oblast: Obolonsky, Zolotonzhsky, Gradovsky, Grebenkovsky, Shramkovsky, Piryatinsky, Yagotinsky and Gelmyazovsky. (ZARYA POLTVSHCHINY, Jan. 18)

The oblast as a whole attained worse yields of sugar beets than last year. (KOROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA, Jan. 23)

Fertilizer -- The kolkhozes of some rayons have not even begun the procurement of fertilizer (MOLOT, Jan. 16)

Fertilization work is being carried out very slowly in Khopersky, Danilovsky, Komsomolsky, Frunzensky, Kletsky and Serafimovichsky rayons (STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, Jan. 23).

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Rural Electrification

The artisan methods (kustarshechina) of building power stations must be rejected once and for all... Some stations are frequently inactive because of various breakdowns resulting from improper care. Sometimes the personnel does not know how to properly operate these stations. (SOVETSKAYA SIBIR, Jan. 24)

Industry: Higher production quality and lower costs are the chief industrial targets of today, according to most of the broadcasts, and socialist competition for both is repeatedly recommended. The race for quantity to the detriment of quality (gonenie za kolichestvom v ushcherb kachestvu) is castigated on the radio and in the press, although the line taken is that improved quality should not in any way affect the quantitative minima of the plan. PRAVDA (Jan. 24 not broadcast) carries a long article by Kalnberzin, Secretary of the Latvian Communist Party, severely criticizing the republic's textile and metallurgical industries for "striving to embellish the actual situation" (stremlenie priukrasit deistvitelnoye polozhenie del) with high production indices and a variety of good averages. Among them are the giant Liepaja plant "Krasniy Metallurg", the Riga plants "VEF", "REZ" and others whose overall fulfillment of the plan conceals numerous shortcomings in quality and assortment. The "Latlesosplav" (Latvian Timber Floating Trust) is said to have resorted to criminal methods to cover up the breakdown of its plan (proval plana). Having squandered great quantities of lumber and fearing the possible consequences, the trust's officials submitted fictitious reports (fiktivnie svodki) showing overfulfillment and receiving bonuses for their performance. Kalnberzin also points to the lack of order (neporyadok) on the Latvian railroads where everything appears to go wrong:

Capital investments were repeatedly unimplemented, machinery and mechanisms were left unused, road maintenance regulations crudely violated and labor was badly organized.

Russian version:

Kapitalovlozhenia sistematicheski ne osvivaalis, mashiny i mekhanizmy ne ispolzovalis, tekhnicheskije pravila soderzhanija dorog grubo narushalis, trud rabochikh byl organizovan plokho.

Of some interest in this connection is the Secretary's casual reference to the fear of reprisals which in some cases at least accounts for report falsifications and other violations:

For the sake of their own peace of mind--and fearing unpleasant consequences for themselves--such officials are wont to forget the main objective, the interests of the business, the interests of the Party and State.

Russian version:

Vo imya svoego spokoystvia, opasayas lichnykh nepriatnostey, takie rabotniki zabyvayut o glavnom--ob interesakh dela, interesakh partii i gosudarstva.

Report falsification is also the subject of STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA's editorial discussion of Jan. 25. Listing a number of Stalingrad plants which failed to complete their plans, the paper is surprised at the reasons offered for such failures, and suggests that the ineptitude of the management is perhaps the real reason:

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Some directors try to cover their inability to organize work correctly by allegations of antistate activities. Striving to fulfill the plan at any cost, deception and falsification of report data have been permitted ...

By plan fulfillment, the paper intimates, they mean quantity without any regard for quality or the planned assortment of manufactures. KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 19) suggests that the entire force of socialist competition should be directed toward "raising the quality...and lowering the cost of production." Lack of socialist competition is also held responsible for the failure of the Saratov city and oblast industry to cope with its plans, according to KOMMUNIST (Jan. 25). The qualitative indices, the paper says, are particularly low in the Saratov gas and oil and the construction materials industries.

STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 18) frankly ascribes most of the industrial ills to inefficient labor. Although mass political work among the workers, good planning and adequate utilization of machinery are considered essential, there is nothing that harder work will not cure. In the Stalingrad Building Trust, the difference in the output of bricklayers, for example, is so great as to vitiate any construction planning:

The best masons brigades...are laying 6 cubic meters of bricks per day per man...at the Stalingrad House Building Trust not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic meters are being laid...The best brigades plastered 15 square meters per man per day, and at other organizations 4 square meters and even less than that were plastered.

Industrial efficiency, according to a summarized report from Novosibirsk (Jan. 23), is something to be constantly encouraged and cannot be expected to reach a high level without continuous prodding. The house building program in that area is reported far behind schedule because man enterprises "are satisfied to have a very small number of stakhanovites". Hence, insufficient encouragement. The 500-mile-a-day movement among the railroad engineers which had spread on a number of Soviet railroads is now all but forgotten for the simple reason that it was "not sufficiently assisted" and therefore failed to turn into a "mass movement", as on the Tomsk line for example.

Efficiency, as pointed out by Titarenko in PRAVDA on Jan. 24, can be carried to ridiculous extremes in which case it would be more appropriate to call it a vicious practice (porochnaya praktika). The Ministry of the Building Materials Industry is cited as a case in point. It is said to be in the habit of distributing materials among Dnepropetrovsk oblast construction projects without consideration of their requirements (bez ucheta zaprosov) thus creating above-norm reserves (sverkhnormativnie zapasy) in some and shortages in others. The Novomoskovsky Sheet Metal Works, for example, received eight times as much material as it needed or could possibly handle. Consumer goods: The dearth and low quality of consumer goods are frequently highlighted on the regional transmitters but such discussions usually contain little specificity beyond the references to shortcomings in familiar terms. The first official reference to black market activities is made in a SOVETSKAYA SIBIR editorial on 16 January: "In many cases goods are sold from under the counter only to friends, and sometimes even for bribes." The oblast consumer cooperatives, the paper continues, completed its last year's activities with "unsatisfactory induces", and their present performance also leaves much to be desired. The mentioned malpractice has been noted particularly in the rural areas where the number of model rural salesman is still woefully insufficient. A shortage of consumer goods is also admitted in Saratov oblast (KOMMUNIST, Jan. 19) where it was expressed in terms of "several million rubles" last year alone. Here, too, the blame is pinned on the salesmen and store managers whose political and professional training is not up to standard whose personal cupidity therefore gets the better of their loyalty to the people. PSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 25) complains that such large consumer organizations as the Nar-From-Kombinat (People's Industrial Combine), the Pskov Haberdashery and the Pishcheprom (Food Combine) are producing very low quality goods of insufficient assortment,

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and failed to fulfill last year's plan on top of it.

Following are some other items highlighting the current drive for higher production quality and greater assortment in chronological order:

25 January--The Rostov Coal Combine, though it fulfilled the gross coal extraction plan, did not insure the fulfillment of the plan by every mine and every sector (MOLOT);

29 January--The Statistical Department notes that certain enterprises fulfilled the gross plan, but did not fulfill the plan for specified types of goods (Novosibirsk);

29 January--The Minister of the Building Materials Industry and his deputy ... do not conduct a struggle against the "anti-mechanization mood" (anti-mekhanizatorskie nastroyenia) ... The brick manufacturing machines at enterprises are used on the average to 57% of their capacity. Many remain inactive (KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA);

30 January--... several industrial enterprises are failing to fulfill their production programs regarding the manufacture of important products ... the range of products should be enlarged ... (STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA).

Party Activities: The most widely publicized failing in the field of Party life is in the political education of rank-and-file Communists. The Party school network, independent study circles and scheduled lectures on Party doctrine--all designed to propagate and maintain orthodox Marxism among the membership--are said to be failing somewhat short of the target. Here, too, it appears that the tendency among the Communists in charge of political education is toward quantity rather than quality. As CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA (Jan. 17) puts it, some Party leaders are attempting to enlist "as many Communists as possible" for the prescribed studies without any regard for the quality of instruction, on the one hand, and the students' background, aptitude and inclination, on the other. The desire to show a large enrollment in the schools and the resultant large-scale recruitment has tended to disregard many other aspects of Communist education and, among other things, discourage independent study. An extreme example of such indiscriminate enrollment is cited in the case of the Odessa Polyclinic physicians who, as professionals, are usually encouraged to study independently: "out of 108 doctors ... only 4 study independently and all the others are enrolled in political groups. Such underestimation of ... independent study handicaps the theoretical indoctrination of Communists."

VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 24) speaks of the "serious flaws" in the work of lecture propaganda which on the whole "does not accord with the exigencies" of Party education. Well prepared and well substantiated lectures on the "Brief History of the All-Union Communist Party" and Marxist-Leninist classics, the editorial concludes, is what the Communists need. Stereotyped and repetitious presentation of topics not germane to the current Communist construction merely tends to bore the listeners:

We have also such lecturers as do not make the effort to work out the lecture, but copy and rearrange other people's lectures and offer it in this shape to the audience.

This description is said to apply particularly to the lecturers of the Porechensky, Belsky, Ilyinsky, Novosokolniki and other rayon Party Committees.

An anonymous article carried by KIROVOGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (Jan. 23) discloses that one of the methods used to discourage independent study is to leave it unsupervised. This in fact happened in a number of places in the oblast, and the result was that "many Communists and non-Party activists are not working at their own education at all." Lack of Party supervision over the independent students of Marxism is also sharply criticized by STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA of Jan. 27. In Dzerzhinsky and Krasnoarmeisky rayons independent political studies have all but deteriorated and the local Party organizations do not appear to be concerned about it;

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There is no control over the political studies of Communists who are studying Marxism and Leninism on their own, and Party organizations do not always offer them theoretical and methodical help.

Nepotism and suppression of criticism within the Party are charged in a number of press dispatches and voicecasts, all of them pointing to the fear of being criticized. An Airyan article in PRAVDA (Jan. 25, not broadcast) speaks in contemptuous terms of the artificially created "circle of indispensable workers" (kruzhok nezamenimyykh rabotnikov) around the Leninakan (Armenian SSR) Party organization. Some of these officials had been dismissed from responsible jobs on several occasions for incompetence and abuse of official privileges but have invariably been reappointed to other equally important positions. One of them, the director of the Textile Combine, was repeatedly exposed as objectionable but could not be dislodged from his post by the Party until the "investigative organs" (sledstvennie organy) finally caught up with him. Another, the head of the Erevan branch of the Transcaucasian Railroad, was found guilty of nepotism and suppression of criticism at the same time and still manages to get away with both crimes:

... at work he surrounded himself with his relatives ... he issued an order dismissing from work all those who dared criticize him.

Russian version:

... okruzhil sebya na rabote svoimi rodstvennikami ... izdal prikaz ob osvobozhdenii ot raboty vseh tkh, kto osmelilsia kritikovat ego.

A virulent indictment of suppression of criticism and even persecution of critics in the Rostov Party Committee is contained in a MOLOT editorial of Jan. 30. The absence of criticism and self-criticism, says the paper, has engendered an "atmosphere of placidity and indifference," and the city's Party leaders have "developed cockiness and self-complacency." Little or no attention is paid to criticism from below and "gross mistakes" in Party work are constantly overlooked or even condoned:

It is no accident therefore that there were cases of flagrant stifling of criticism and self-criticism and gross oppression and persecution of people who criticized shortcomings.

Ideological Weaknesses: Significant in the otherwise meager output on ideological purity is the official attention to doctrinal matters in the Buryat-Mongolian and Yakutian ASSR's. PRAVDA (Jan. 17, not broadcast) carries an unsigned report from Ulan Ude stating that the recent plenum of the Buryat-Mongolian Party has discovered that "Buryat-Mongolian Soviet literature ... is not in keeping with current requirements" (sostoyanie buryat-mongolskoi sovetskoi literatury ... ne otvchayet predyavlyayemykh trebovaniyam). Elaborating the point, the report goes on to say that a number of (unnamed) publications present the history of the Buryat-Mongolian people "in a distorted way" (v izvrashchenom vide), minimize the significance of the class struggle and idealize the feudal past. The "serious shortcomings" revealed in the first volume of the "History of the Buryat-Mongolian ASSR" are laid to the dubious Party orthodoxy of the various scientific-research institutes and the institutions of higher learning whose treatment of the history of the Buryat-Mongolian people is "not at all satisfactory." (sovershenno neudovletvoritelno). Similar failings though in lesser degree are attributed also to the Party organizations of the Republic's philharmonic orchestra and the Writers' Union.

The flurry created by PRAVDA's adverse criticism of Basharin's book "Three Yakutian Realist-Educators" (Tri Yakutskikh Realista-Prosvetitel'ya) last December is referred to in short unsigned PRAVDA item on Jan. 23 (not broadcast). Stung into action, the Presidium of the Yakut Academy of Sciences held a plenary session, resolved that

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PRAVDA's criticism was "just" (pravilnaya) and proceeded to dig deeper into the ideological life of the Republic. No details are offered as to the findings but the inferences drawn from the Presidium's decisions are revealing:

The Presidium outlined a number of measures ... to revise the manuscripts and other completed works ... on Yakut literature ... to revise the thematics of scientific works, intensify the local press propagation of the ideas of friendship of peoples and Soviet patriotism.

Russian version:

Presidium nametil ryad meropriyatiy ... peresmotret rukopisnie i drugie zakonchennnie raboty ... po yakutskoi literature ... peresmotret tematiku nauchnykh rabot, usilit propagandu v mestnoi pechati idei druzhby narodov, sovetsskogo patriotizma.

A report from Kiev (in Ukrainian, Jan. 27) tells of the conference of critics and writers sponsored by the Ukrainian Authors Union. Called ostensibly to discuss the purity of the ideological line pursued by the monthly magazine VITCHYZNA, the conferees are said to have discovered "signs of a relapse" (priznaki retsidiya) into Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism in other publications as well, particularly in the works of Kobyletsky. The mentioned periodical, it is claimed, does not publish enough articles on the "beneficial influence" (blagotvornoe vlianie) of Russian literature on Ukrainian literature, and that its treatment of the problem of socialist esthetics is unsatisfactory. The report also points out that, in the view of the conference, the present status of literary criticism in the Ukraine "cannot as yet be considered satisfactory" (nelzya eshehe schitat udovletvoritel'nyy). This point, however, is not elaborated beyond the mention that among the resolutions adopted is one calling for "more attention ... to contemporary Ukrainian literature." Another point obviously stressed to enhance the importance of the conference is that it was attended by representatives from Leningrad and Moscow.

Russo-Ukrainian Unity: Speaking at the unveiling of a monument to Lenin in Lvov, the Presidium chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Grechukha quoted Lenin to the effect that an independent Ukraine divorced from Russia proper is a virtual impossibility:

The immortal words of Lenin that "a free Ukraine is possible only through the united action of the proletariats of the Great Russian and the Ukrainian people, and there can be no free Ukraine without such unity" have become the sacred law to all the Ukrainian people. (in Ukrainian, Jan. 21)

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